

# Statewide Technology Plan

## Update on Action Items

### March 2004

The NITC has prepared an action plan consisting of 20 items which address the NITC's four goals of supporting the development of a robust telecommunications infrastructure; supporting community and economic development; promoting the efficient delivery of government and educational services; and promoting effective planning and accountability. The current status of the NITC's 2003-2004 action items is listed below. A brief description of each action item is available on the NITC home page: [www.nitc.state.ne.us](http://www.nitc.state.ne.us).

Action Items	Status as of March 2004
<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure</b>	
1. Provide technical assistance for the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership for the development of statewide network services (TP 1.1)	Phase I (Kearney, Grand Island, Omaha and Lincoln – October 1, 2003 implementation Phase II (Norfolk, North Platte, Panhandle) – January 31, 2004 implementation.
2. Provide technical assistance for aggregation and consolidation of networks (TP 2.2)	Technical assistance for the statewide network is being provided through the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) group. (See below for status of efforts on statewide synchronous video.)
3. Support the Nebraska Network through the Network Policy Work Group (CC 3, EC 1.2, SGC 2.3)	The Interim Network Policy Work Group has met twice (August 1 and September 3). A customer information manual, customer agreements, and other steps are underway. (11/03: A third meeting was held September 24. The next meeting has not been set.)
4. Determine statewide synchronous video network requirements (TP 2.2.1, EC 1.1)	The Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group has met four times (March 26, May 28, July 30, November 10). A comprehensive update was provided to the Public Service Commission on August 26, 2003 and a list of five first-round recommendations were presented to the Technical Panel on November 12 and the NITC on November 13. <b>(3/04: The IP Communication protocol has been approved and forwarded by the NITC, as was the Contracting Guidelines for Upgrade of Distance Learning. Several task groups [scheduling, funding, network inventory] are at work and making progress. The Video Standards Work Group was re-chartered by the Technical Panel and should have a draft standard recommendation ready by April 13, 2004. The Statewide Synchronous Video Network was named by the Education Council as one of three strategic investments for the 2005-07 biennium budget.)</b>
5. Support the development of the Nebraska Telehealth Network (CC 2)	With support from the Bioterrorism Executive Committee, the Nebraska Hospital Association is including bioterrorism response in their next phase of planning. Discussions continue with the Public

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	Service Commission and hub hospitals on the development of a telehealth network. <b>(03/04: Joint purchasing of video equipment by Nebraska hospitals is being organized. A workshop on billing for telehealth services is being planned for April.)</b>
6. Address the need for sufficient rural bandwidth EC (1.2)	Educational delegates from rural areas are participating on the Interim Network Policy Work Group, the Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group, and at least one person from the Panhandle assisted with the evaluation of Phase2 Netcom bids. The Education Council is assisting in identifying “customers” and current Internet 1 demand. <b>(3/04: ESUs 10, 11, 15, 16 &amp; 18 have joined Network Nebraska and discussions are under way with Wayne State College and Chadron State College on Tier II aggregation. Other K-12 and higher education entities have expressed interest. Network Nebraska was named by the Education Council as one of three strategic initiatives for consideration for the 2005-07 biennium budget.)</b>
<b>Community and Economic Development</b>	
1. Encourage and support community IT development (CC 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An expanded Community IT Planning Workbook has been developed.</li> <li>• TANgents, a quarterly electronic newsletter from Technologies Across Nebraska, reaches nearly 1,500 individuals.</li> <li>• Seven out of the eight communities participating in the first year of the IT Planning and Mini Grant program have completed their technology plans. Two communities – Edgar and Crawford – have received grants to begin implementing their plans. Other communities are offering training programs and developing Web sites.</li> <li>• Homer, Dakota City, Ord, Lexington, Maskell, and Adams County are conducting assessment activities through the 2003-2004 IT Planning and Mini-Grant program. Seward will also begin the program in March 2004.</li> </ul>
<b>Efficient Delivery of Government and Educational Services</b>	
1. Determine the business case for reinstatement of the Technology Training Grant Fund (EC 2.1)	The Education Council task group for EC2.1 has not been formed. <b>(3/04: The EC 2.1 Task Group was named at the November EC meeting and has convened e-mail discussions. They expect to report at the March 19 EC meeting with a timeline and scope of a technology training needs assessment.)</b>
2. Support the Nebraska eLearning Initiative (EC 5.1)	The Nebraska eLearning Initiative has been named as one of the five project components of the Network Nebraska implementation. A project team has been named to pursue sources of grant funds. <b>(3/04: The</b>

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	<b>eLearning Initiative was named by the Education Council as one of three strategic initiatives for the 2005-07 biennium budget.)</b>
3. Assist in the development of value-added services for the Nebraska "Click into Education" portal (EC 5.2)	Of the three projects prioritized by the Education Council: Statewide admission form, searchable database of I.T. training opportunities, and searchable database of higher education courses and programs, progress is being made on each through the cooperation of Nebraska OnLine and the staff of the NITC. <b>(3/04: A working model of the web-based admission form will be demonstrated at the EC March 19 meeting. The other two projects are nearing completion.)</b>
4. Study and promote effective synchronous and asynchronous instructional methods (EC 6.1)	The Education Council task group to concentrate on this issue was named at the EC on September 19, 2003. The task group has been working through virtual means. <b>(3/04: No additional progress reported)</b>
5. Implement <i>E-Government Strategic Plan</i> (SGC 1.1)	Of the 26 specific "Actions and Recommendations" contained in the Plan, 15 have either been completed or progress is being made. The remaining 11 have yet to have significant progress made. (11/03: The new contract with NOL will address many items in the e-Government Strategic Plan. The annual e-Government Conference was held on November 18.) <b>(03/04. Recent progress includes posting high volume forms on the Internet; 5 new interactive licensing applications since October 31 with 7 more in progress; 37 additional agencies registered to use the Public Meeting Calendar, and completion of the automatic e-mail notification feature of the Public Meeting Calendar.)</b>
6. Develop guidelines for electronic records retention (SGC 2.2)	The SGC created a work group, which drafted a best practices resource document for the retention of Lotus Notes e-mail and related documents.
7. Recommend technical standards, guidelines, best practices, and enterprise solutions (TP 2.1, SGC 2.1)	Recommendations completed for: E-fax Guideline; Wireless Local Area Network Guidelines; Remote Access Guidelines; Lotus Notes E-mail Retention Best Practices; and Directory Services Work Group Recommendations. Work is progressing on: Blocking E-mail Attachments Guideline; Blocking SPAM Guideline; and Internet .GOV Domain Naming Convention. A work group is reviewing the E-mail Standard for State Government; and IMServices is coordinating meeting with agencies to identify other areas, which will benefit from standards and guidelines. (11/03: Recommendations completed for blocking spam and e-mail attachments. Work is progressing on the directory services project.) <b>(03/04: The e-mail work group has finished its recommendations. The State Government Council has adopted a strategy for enterprise architecture, shared services, and standards.)</b>

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<b>Planning and Accountability</b>	
1. Improve planning process and project management (SGC 3.1)	Work not scheduled to begin until the 4th Quarter of 2003. <b>(03/04. The SGC has revised the agency comprehensive information technology planning document for the next biennium. A proposal for giving the NITC a more proactive role in identifying strategic IT initiatives is under consideration.)</b>
2. Communicate with policymakers (SGC 3.2)	Ongoing. (11/03. Briefing for the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee was held on 11/13/03.) <b>(03/04. Briefing held for the Appropriations Committee, other Senators, and legislative staff on 1/14/04.)</b>
3. Develop and implement security policies (SGC 4.1)	Additional security policies drafted for Wireless Local Area Networks and Remote Access. (11/03. The NITC adopted these policies at its September meeting.) <b>(03/04. Contract signed with Omni Tech for a second vulnerability scan in March.)</b>
4. Conduct project reviews – statutory (TP 3.1)	None.
5. Conduct project reviews – other (TP 3.2)	None.
6. Revise procedures for reviewing IT projects and purchases by state agencies (TP 3.3)	Work scheduled to begin during 3rd Quarter. (11/03. This will be part of the SGC's strategy for enterprise architecture.)

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